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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

imagery analysis report

CSS-X-4/CSL-2 Propellant Railcars Identified at Wuchang (Wu-Chang) Locomotive and Railroad Car Plant, PRC

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CSS-X-4/CSL-2 PROPELLANT RAILCARS IDENTIFIED AT WUCHANG (WU-CHANG) LOCOMOTIVE AND RAILROAD CAR PLANT, PRC [redacted]

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1. [redacted] An analysis of selected imagery acquired since August 1969 indicates that the Wuchang (Wu-chang) Locomotive and Railroad Car Plant [redacted] in the People's Republic of China (PRC; Figure 1) is involved in the maintenance, repair, and possibly fabrication of types D, J, K, and L propellant railcars.[1] Types D, K, and L propellant railcars have been associated with the CSS-X-4/CSL-2 missile, while the type J has not been associated with a specific system.

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2. [redacted] The Wuchang Plant is in central Wuhan in the Hubei (Hupeh) Province. The wall-secured railyard at Wuchang consists of two large assembly halls, two large rail-served maintenance/repair halls, a fabrication building, two subassembly buildings, and 45 support/storage buildings (Figure 2). A single track enters the yard and branches into 29 service spurs, which serve the fabrication/assembly and maintenance/repair halls. Numer-

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ous types of railcars and small locomotives are assembled or repaired at this plant.

3. [redacted] one possible type J propellant railcar, two type K railcars (Figure 3A), and one type L railcar (Figure 3B) were observed within the yard. This was the largest number of the propellant-associated railcars seen at this facility at one time. [redacted] three type K propellant railcars were on a service spur entering the eastern repair hall (Figure 3C). The most recent observation was [redacted] when a single type D propellant railcar was observed adjacent to the eastern maintenance/repair hall (Figure 3D).

4. [redacted] Types K and L propellant railcars have been observed together at Shuangchengzi (Shuang-cheng-tzu) SSM Research and Development Launch Site B 1/2 [redacted] and at Wuzhai (Wu-chai) Missile Test Complex [redacted] prior to CSS-X-4/CSL-2 missile launches. The types D and L propellant railcars have been seen together at the Fengzhou (Feng-chou) Guided Missile Engine Plant [redacted] at the same time as CSS-X-4/CSL-2 missile rail transporters. Type L propellant railcars have only been observed one at a time but usually in the presence of several type D or K propellant railcars. This suggests that the type L may contain filtering, purifying, metering, or pumping equipment. Other than at Wuchang, the type J railcar has only been observed (on poor-quality imagery) at the Beijing (Pei-ching) Guided Missile Development Production Center Changxindian (Chang-hsin-tien; [redacted] At Beijing, it was not at either of the propellant transfer points but on a railspur a short distance away. There is no conclusive evidence that the type J is propellant related.

5. [redacted] Usually, significant numbers of propellant-associated railcars would be present at liquid propellant production plants. To date, only two installations—the Yijiafou (I-chia-fou) Possible Liquid Propellant Plant [redacted] and the Fengxian (Feng-hsien) Chlorine and Caustic Soda Plant [redacted] have been identified in the PRC as having the capability to produce liquid propellants. However, neither of these two facilities are rail served nor have propellant vehicles ever been observed at either facility.

6. [redacted] The nearest known rail-served CSS-X-4/CSL-2-related facility is the Shanghai (Shang-hai) Guided Missile Production Plant Minhang (Min-hang; [redacted] which is approximately 650 kilometers east of Wuhan. The nearest PRC strategic missile facility is the Liankengwang (Lien-keng-wang) SSM Missile Launch Complex [redacted] which is approximately 250 kilometers east of the Wuchang Plant (Figure 1).

7. [redacted] The small numbers of propellant railcars and their infrequent sightings could suggest that the Wuchang Plant is more involved with the maintenance and repair of these railcars than with their production. Further monitoring of this facility may reveal the extent to which the railyard supports the strategic missile industry. It could also provide more information about the association of the railyard with the 7th Ministry of Machine Industry. The 7th Ministry is responsible for the development and production of strategic missile systems in the PRC.[2]

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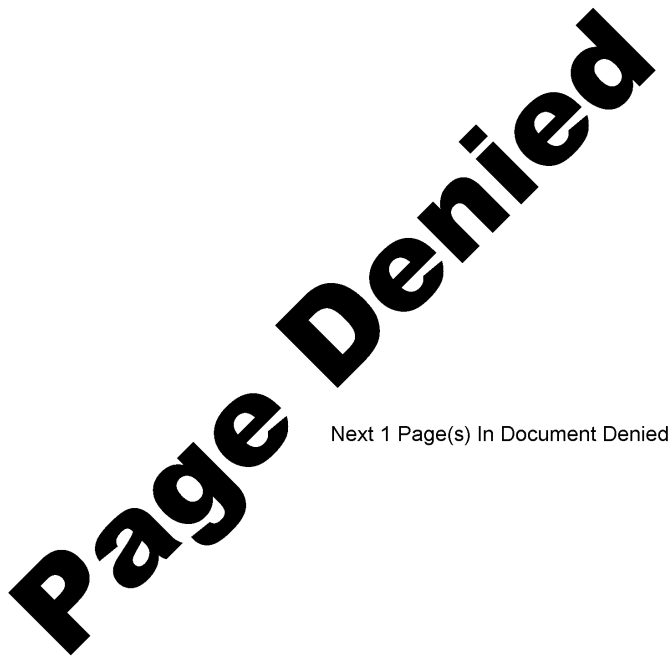

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MAPS OR CHARTS

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DOCUMENT

1. FTD/AFSC [redacted] RFB-22/0016/78, *Ground Support Equipment (GSE), Missile Associated (U)*, Sep 78 (TOP SECRET RUFF) 25X1

2. CIA [redacted] SR-IR 71-1, *The Seventh Ministry: Communist China's Organization for Missile Production*, Jan 71 (TOP SECRET RUFF [redacted] 25X1 25X1

REQUIREMENT

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